

QA-173
Roe House
Roe's Crossroads
Private

1857

The Roe House was constructed in 1857 by William H. C. Roe. It stands on the northwest corner of Roe's Crossroads and is all that has survived of a once thriving farm community. The house is interesting primarily as an example of the transition in building methods and materials that occurred in the mid-19th century. Decorative details are primarily typical of the late Greek Revival, but moldings generally associated with the Victorian period are also found in an original context, and transitional building materials are found used together in combination. Renovations undertaken in the fall of 1979 revealed that the two story kitchen wing incorporated the frame of a much earlier one room building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Roe House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner of Maryland Route 405 and Hope-Ingleside Road

CITY, TOWN

Roe

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Roe Farms, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o William M. D. Roe

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 129

Folio #: 101

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-173

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roe House is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Maryland Route 405 and the Hope-Ingleside Road. This was once a small crossroads community, but the Roe House and several farm buildings are all that remain. A small cemetery is located in a grove of trees on the southwest corner, and Mr. William Roe of Sudlersville reports that his son located an old house foundation back from the road on the northeast corner.

The Roe house is a large frame structure, two stories high, three bays wide and two rooms deep, with a moderately pitched gable roof and a single massive chimney centered on the west gable. A two story wing that appears to be original projects from the west gable of the main house. The wing is also frame, two stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a slightly steeper pitched roof and a flush brick chimney on the west gable. One story porches cover the first floor on both the north and south facade of the wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The north and south facades of the main house are identical, with blocked-off doors in the east bay on the first floor, two large six-over-six windows to the left of the door, and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. A single six-over-six window on the first floor is the only opening in the east gable, and the west gable is almost completely covered by the wing. The house sets on a continuous brick foundation laid in common bond, and is covered with beaded weatherboard siding and beaded cornerboards, all secured with machine nails. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a crown mold and a bed mold applied against a rabbeted and banded backboard. The east gable is pedimented, with the cornice carried across the gable and up the gable eaves. The siding in the upper gable is beaded and laid flush rather than with a lap joint.

The wing is set in from both the north and south facade of the main house. On the north facade, there is a door in the center bay on the first floor flanked by nine-over-six windows. Three six-over-six windows are ranged across the second floor. There are no window or door openings in the west gable. On the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

south facade, there is a door in the west bay and a nine-over-six window in the east bay on the first floor, and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. The wing rests on a continuous brick foundation and is also covered with beaded weatherboard siding and beaded corner boards. The cornice is identical to the main house, but the gable is not pedimented. Here the eaves are finished with beaded and tapered rakeboards and a strip of applied ogee molding. A small store room or pantry is located in the east corner of the south porch. It is covered with the same beaded siding and cornerboard secured with machine nails, and appears to be an original feature.

The interior of the main house is composed of a surprisingly sparse version of a side hall, double parlour plan. The hall extends along the east gable wall, but the stair is almost lost, tucked into the extreme south end of the hall, leaving a great empty expanse that probably served as "overflow" space from the parlours. The stair rises along the east wall to a landing against the south wall, turns 90° and rises two steps to a second landing, then turns 90° and rises to the second floor. It has an

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

open string carriage with plain square newels, square balusters, and a simple molded railing. The carriage piece is plain, with recessed paneling below. A four-panel door below the landing provides access to a closet under the stairs. The parlours each have a corner fireplace at the west end of the center partition wall. The mantels have been removed but remain on the premises, and are relatively simple examples typical of the mid-19th century. Large double doors in the center partition wall allow ready passage between the parlours, and a single door in the west wall of the south parlour leads to the wing.

The second floor plan is similar, but the north end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber. The south chamber was originally heated by a corner fireplace, but this has been blocked and the mantel removed. A door to the left of the fireplace leads to the second floor of the wing. In the north chamber, the fireplace is located in the southwest corner, but it is not built into the angle of the wall as might be expected. Instead, it faces directly out from the gable wall,

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

and is jammed so close against the center partition that the left edge of the original mantel is buried in the plaster. This is an exceptionally small mantel, with tapered plain pilasters, a plain fascia, and a Greek ogee-astragal molding below a plain shelf.

The trim on both the first and second floor of the main house consists of an unusual combination of Greek Revival and early Victorian. All of the window architraves and several of the door surrounds are clearly Greek Revival, with rabbeted banding on a flat fascia, but three of the interior first floor door surrounds have a molded back band applied to a banded fascia. This same molding appears on the paneling below the stairs, while the panel mold found on the interior doors is an early Victorian ogee. On the second floor, the standard architrave is a simplified version of the rabbeted Greek Revival surrounds found on the first floor. The flat fascia board below the window sills has a rabbeted Greek profile, and the door hoods on the interior doorways have Greek ogee-astragal moldings applied against a rabbeted and beaded fascia. The first floor baseboard has a molded edge, while the top face of the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

second floor baseboard is molded.

The roof is of common rafter construction set at a pitch of approximately 22 degrees. The rafters are hewn and pit-sawn, and are mitred and butted at the ridge. They rest on a flat false plate supported by the second floor ceiling joists, which are notched over the top plate. Each rafter pair is reinforced with a collar beam and a pair of angled braces which run from the rafters down to the joist. The collar beams are half-lapped and nailed with machine nails, and are reinforced in the center with a vertical post or stud which runs from the collar beam down to a flat one inch plate laid across the joists. The angled braces are half lapped and nailed against the rafters and joists. Short jack rafters that support the cornice in the pedimented east gable are secured to the gable rafter pair with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Of particular interest in the roof construction is evidence that the rafters and the vertical studs were reused from an earlier roof. The lower face of most of the rafters and all of the studs have plaster scars, and numerous machine-made lathing nails remain in place. Many of the rafters also have earlier

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

collar notches. These are clearly from a more steeply pitched roof that had half-dovetailed collar beams secured with machine nails. The angles were measured, and the pitch of the earlier roof was computed to be approximately 42 degrees. Although it is possible the present roof on the Roe House is not original, all other architectural evidence suggests it is, and the rafters must have been reused from another building built in the early 19th century.

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms, with the west room one step lower than the east room. The east room is heated by a fireplace on the center of the east wall, served by a flue from the chimney of the main house. This fireplace has been blocked and the mantel is missing. A steep winder stair in the southwest corner of the room leads to a single room on the second floor, and a two-panel Greek Revival door in the southeast corner of the room leads to a pantry.

In the west room, a large, somewhat crude fireplace projects into the room on the west gable wall. The fireplace opening was quite large and clearly served at one time as the kitchen fireplace, but has

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

been blocked and fitted with a stove flue. A steep companionway stair to the right of the fireplace leads to the second floor. This stair is enclosed by a vertical board partition and a plain batten door. The partition is constructed with rough-sawn planks secured with machine nails. It was originally whitewashed and left exposed, but the outer face has been plastered using lathing secured with wire nails. The ceiling joists in this room were originally exposed, and both the joists and the underside of the floor boards above the joists were whitewashed.

The second floor of the wing is divided into three rooms, with a large room above the east room on the first floor, and two smaller rooms above the west room. The east room is carefully finished, and can be reached by using the winder stair in the east room on the first floor, or through a connecting door in the upstairs south chamber of the main house. The two small rooms to the west were evidently used by servants, farm hands, or possibly initially by house slaves. The only point of access is the steep stair in the kitchen, and the rooms are very sparsely finished and unheated. The trim in these two rooms consists of

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

beaded baseboard and door and window surrounds, and a section of beaded coat rail. The walls and ceilings are plastered, and a low, beaded batten door with beveled battens separates the two rooms. The original blue paint remains on all of the trim and the batten door.

The remainder of the wing is trimmed with a combination of Greek and Victorian details, similar to the main house. The standard architrave on both the first and second floor consists of a Victorian ogee backband applied to a rabbeted and beaded fascia. On the second floor this architrave is used in combination with a rabbeted Greek fascia below the sill.

The roof of the wing is of common rafter construction, set at a 24 degree pitch. The rafters are mitred and butted at the ridge, and rest on a flat false plate supported by the ceiling joists. The rafters are gang-sawn and tapered, and every second pair is reinforced at each end with an angled brace which is secured to the rafter with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint and secured to the joist with a seated and pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Light, one-inch collars

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

have also been scabbed on using machine nails. The gable studs are mortise-and-tenoned into the plate and are mitred and nailed to the gable rafters.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roe House is a relatively late example of the side hall, double parlour plan typical of the first half of the 19th century. The exterior is quite plain except for the banded Greek Revival cornice and the pedimented east gable. The original beaded weatherboards have survived on much of the exterior, and the beaded flush siding in the pedimented gable remains intact. The interior is also rather sparse, with an unusually small stair that is almost lost in the large first floor hall, and very simple mantels and trim.

The primary significance of the house, however, is as an unusual example of the transition in building materials and methods of construction that occurred in the second quarter of the 19th century. Incorporated into this house are numerous examples of this transition, and the wide diversity makes it difficult to establish a clear date for the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The basic frame was built using the standard heavy timber construction common throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, and is secured with mortise-and-tenon joints and machine nails. At least one original timber was found to be secured with hand-headed machine nails, a feature generally associated with the first quarter of the 19th century, while the plaster lathing in the main house is a random mixture of both riven lath and machine lath. This is an extremely unusual feature, and is clearly in an original context and not the result of later repairs. Riven lathing is generally not found after circa 1830-1840. The interior trim is an old combination of late Greek Revival and early Victorian. This was at first considered to be a result of later alterations, but in several instances the two types of trim are used together in what must certainly be considered an original context. It would appear, therefore, that the house must have been built circa 1850-1860, the earliest date at which a Victorian ogee backband could be expected to appear, and combines an unusual number of transitional materials all typical of the period 1820-1850. As a result, this particular

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

house allows an exceptional opportunity to study an unusual variety of forms and materials not ordinarily found in combination.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/8/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

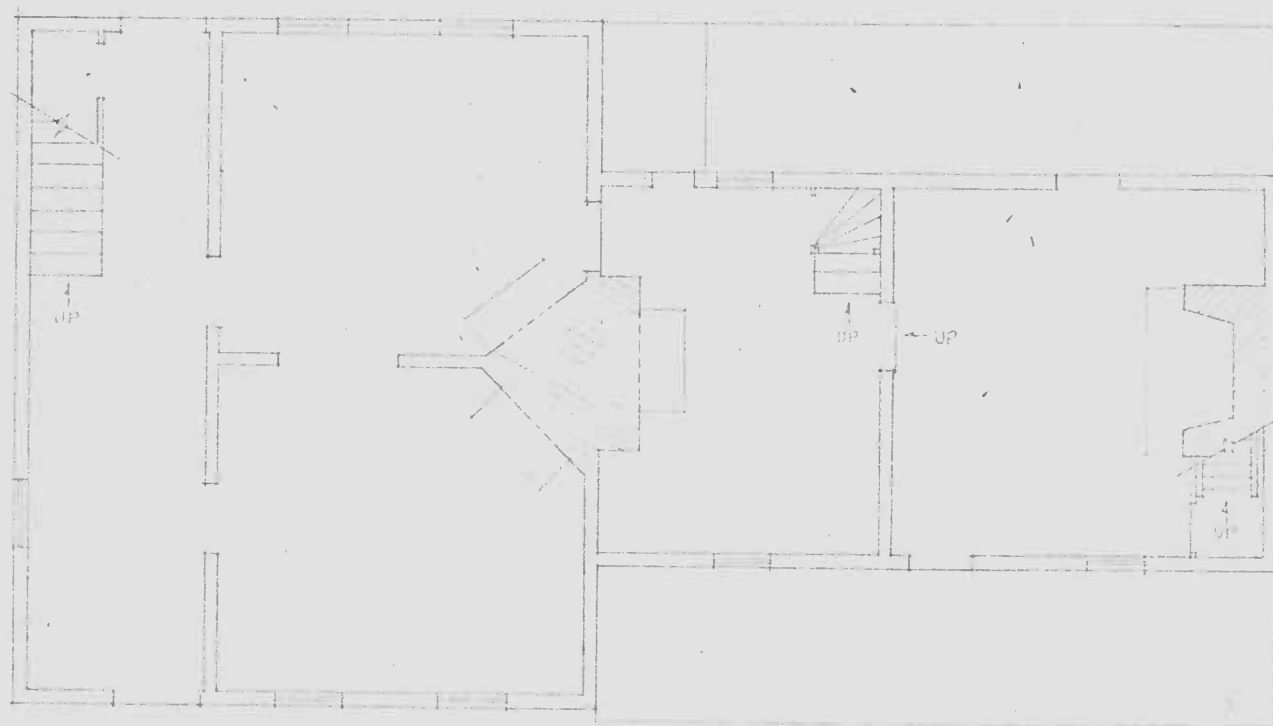
Maryland

Field Book QA-VII, Recorded December 15, 1978.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

0 2 4 6 8 10
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



QA-173

ROE HOUSE
ROE, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 4, 1920.



QA-173
Roe House

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-173 Roe Home

OR V

1978



QA-173 Roe House (D-6)

OK ✓ 1978



QA-173 Poe House

DRV 1978



QA-173 Roe House

Roe, MD

Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)

Interior, stair hall camera facing
NW



QA-173

Roe House
Roe's Crossroads
Queen Anne's County
Historical Society
File Photograph

Roe House